Missionary for Silent Majority

Square Rounds Up Other Squares for a Conventio in Philadelphia

By LINDA J. HEFFNER
Bulletin Washington Bureau

Washington — Forget about the hair curling over his collar. Forget about the cowboy boots. Behind all that lurks a square — a real sincere square. At least that's what Ed Butler keeps telling everyone.

"I'm a square," proclaims Butler with a wide grin as he straightens his mod blue and green striped tie.

At first it's easy to believe him. After all, who else but a square would walk into the plush bar of a downtown Washington hotel carrying a can of soda—and ask the waiter for a glass of ice?

But Butler is more than just a square. He's a square with a message. At least that's what he keeps telling everyone.

Plans Phila. Convention

As a kind of missionary of the silent majority, Butler, who lives in Los Angeles, has been traveling around promoting the message of the Square movement.

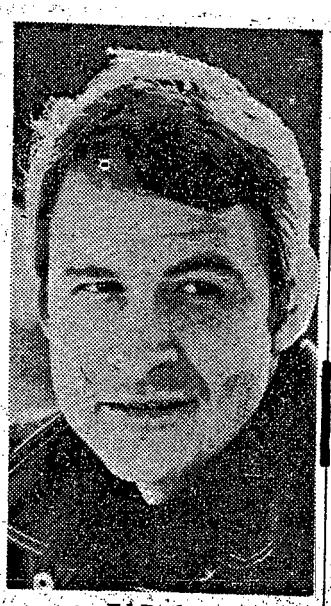
Butler and his close associate, Washington publicist Lee Edwards (also a Square), are now making plans for a convention of Squares to be held in Philadelphia June 14-19. The site is still under discussion.

"Just as Franklin, Jefferson, Adams and their colleagues in 1776 debated and clarified the issues and the alternatives for their fellow citizens, we believe that the speakers and delegates to our congress will produce a similar consensus to help meet the challenges of the 1970s and beyond," explained the youngish, but balding Edwards as he also sipped a non-alcoholic beverage.

Edwards says a "couple of hundred" delegates are expected at the conference.

Kunstler To Speak

So far the list of speakers is incomplete, he explains, but says that "Chicago Seven" lawyer William Kunstler will be there along with William Kintner, of the Foreign Policy Research Center at the University of Pennsylvania.



Ed Butler

The Philadelphia conference is being backed, as is much of the Square movement, by the Information Council of the Americas, a New Orleans based anti-Castro organization founded in 1961.

The Square image has been profitable for Butler. It's landed him a TV-talk show, "The Square World of Ed Butler," and has made him a self-proclaimed "Professional Revolutionary."

[In Philadelphia, the Butler show is on UHF Channel 29 every Saturday night at 11.30.]

Can a Square be a revolutionary? Of course he can, says Butler, who has written a paperback, "Revolution is My Profession," and claims that revolution is the answer to all the Nation's problems — even the Vietnam War.

Revolution Unclear

Despite numerous questions and numerous obscure answers from the 35-year-old Butler, it is unclear exactly what such a revolution would involve.

But the philosophy is, apparently, that everyone should get involved to work for "the maximum social change with the minimum of violence."

Butler refuses to be labeled.

"Terms such as 'left and right' are like underwear — you put them on because you're used to it," he says with a wide grin.

For instance, just because Butler organized a freedom rally calling for victory in Vietnam a few days before last November's massive antiwar Moratorium, it doesn't mean he's a right-winger — at least that's what he keeps telling everyone.

And just because Yippie leader Jerry Rubin called him a "creep" and walked off his television show is no reason to put Butler on the right.

"I've been called everything

from a Nazi to a Communist," says Butler, again with a wide grin.

He's Anti-Tyrannist

"I'm just an anti-tyrannist. That's where the real fight is — between the tyrannists and the believers in freedom."

Butler likes to drop phrases such as, "I've got a price on my head in Cuba."

When asked about this, he reports some Cubans told him that Castro had passed on the word—"Get Butler."

Two documentary films he made were "Hitler in Havana (comparing Castro to the Nazi leader) and "Oswald: Self-Portrait," theorizing that Castroite feelings prompted Lee Harvey Oswald to kill President Kennedy.

The Oswald film stemmed from a radio debate between Butler and Oswald in New Orleans three months before the assassination.

Butler, a native of New Orleans, says he was kicked out of a few schools and dropped out of some others.

He says he once taught dancing at an Arthur Murray Studio, built furniture and drove racing cars — to mention a few activities.

At home in Los Angeles, he has a wife, Gay, two sons and a daughter.

He exercises (100 pushups and 100 sit-ups every day), plays football and basketball, goes to movies, reads — mostly non-fiction, as much as he can about revolutions and the Nazi period.

He says he's never voted. ("Elected officials are the natural enemies.")

"I'm just a simple Square," he says.